



Searches and BWCs

P&P Section 6.131 Body Worn Cameras -*"Uniformed deputies shall record during the execution of a search warrant regardless of whether or not persons are present, also during service of an arrest warrant, a Fourth Amendment waiver search, or a consent search in which the deputy is looking for a suspect, victim of a crime, evidence or contraband."*

'Uniformed deputies' includes those wearing the green external vests. This would include detectives wearing the vest in conjunction with civilian clothing. Body worn cameras (BWCs) must be worn throughout the entirety of the search to document the initial entry, contact with persons present, and the discovery of evidence. Although an external vest or other Sheriff's uniforms may be removed during the search process, BWCs will continue to be utilized. Sheriff's Policy and Procedure does not preclude detectives from utilizing a BWC while in civilian clothing. For example, some detectives have used the camera to assist in documenting field interviews conducted in civilian clothing. **Additional BWC mounts may be required to accommodate civilian clothing after utilizing the molle mount on external vests.**

Scenario: Area Detectives from the North Coastal Patrol Station serve a search warrant on a large house which is likely unoccupied in the Rancho Santa Fe area. Detectives wear civilian clothing with Sheriff's green external vests to the search warrant. There are no persons present at the search and the scene is safe. Detectives anticipating the search to last several hours and knowing the scene is safe, remove their external vests.

Discussion Questions:

Are the detectives able to remove their external vests for the remainder of the search?

If so, what must the detectives consider when removing their external vests?

Can detectives or deputies wear BWCs while not in a Sheriff's uniform?

Answers:

Removal of external vests during a search warrant service once the scene is safe is at the discretion of the operation supervisor; however, BWCs must be utilized for the duration of the search. A BWC can be worn even when one is not wearing a Sheriff's uniform to document a search.